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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2016, at 11:30 a.m.

## Senate

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of grace and glory, You are the source of all life. You have challenged us to number our days, not our weeks, months or years. Give us the wisdom to comprehend the brevity and uncertainty of our life's journey, motivating us to plan not only for time but eternity.

Lord, forgive us when we boast about tomorrow, forgetting that our times are in Your hands.

Today, bless our lawmakers and their staffs. Remind them that they belong to You and that You will order their steps. As they wrestle with complex issues, help them seek Your wisdom and guidance. Empower them as stewards of Your bounty to serve You and humanity, striving to be faithful in the vocation to which You have called them.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

### COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the junior Senator from New Hampshire delivered a powerful address to our Nation this weekend. She spoke about the need to tackle a heroin and prescription opioid epidemic that is impacting not just her State, not just my State, but communities all across our country.

Senator AYOTTE correctly called this a "life or death issue" and talked about what she has been doing to address it. She also talked about important legislation the Senate is considering that would help address the problem.

I was proud to see the Senate vote yesterday to advance the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. It is bipartisan legislation that colleagues in both parties—like the junior Senator from New Hampshire, her colleague from Minnesota, and, of course, the lead sponsors from Ohio and Rhode Island—have worked hard to advance.

I want to especially thank the lead Republican sponsor of this bill, the junior Senator from Ohio, Mr. PORTMAN, for all the work he has done on this critical legislation. The same is true for the senior Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY, who worked to move this bill quickly through the committee that he chairs.

Let's not forget the Senators in both parties who worked with the bill managers to process the kind of amendments both sides agree would make a good bill even better. Because of the dedicated leadership of Senators from both sides of the aisle, we will soon have the opportunity to actually pass this important legislation.

I urge colleagues to join me in voting to do so. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act is important legislation that will help tackle this crisis at every level. It is a good bill, it enjoys strong bipartisan support, and it builds upon a foundation we laid just a few months ago when we appropriated \$400 million to opioid-specific programs—money that still remains available to be spent.

This bipartisan legislation also comes at a time when our Nation needs it most. My home State of Kentucky has been among the hardest hit by this epidemic, with more people dying from drug overdoses than car crashes.

As the junior Senator from New Hampshire reminded us in her address this weekend, these are not just numbers. "Behind every statistic and behind every headline is a life that has been lost," Senator AYOTTE said. "This is not a Republican or Democratic issue—it affects all of us."

I want to thank her and the lead Republican sponsor from Ohio for their important work. I thank their colleagues across the aisle from Rhode Island and Minnesota and the Judiciary Committee chairman from Iowa as well. Let's keep working together to pass the bipartisan CARA bill and take

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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